



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yong Y. HWANG

Serial No.: 09/841,693

Filing Date: 24 April 2001

Title: OIL TREATMENT SYSTEM

Confirmation No.: 4412

Group No.: 1723

Examiner: Matthew O. Savage

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant agrees fully with the Examiner's statement of reason for allowance. The prior art fails to teach or suggest the steps of detecting if any objects which will not pass through the filter system are within the oil prior to supplying the oil to the filter system and shutting down operation of a pretreatment stage of the filter system if any such objects are detected as recited in Claim 21.

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

13 May 2004

13 May 2004  
Date

Matthew O. Savage  
Signature

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The phrase "a pretreatment stage of" said filter system was added to Claim 21 by Examiner's amendment, pursuant to the telephone interview of 20 February 2004. The term "pretreatment stage" is intended to mean any stage of the filter system prior the "extracting" step described in paragraph b) of Claim 21. For example, any stage prior to the decanter centrifuge stage 57, illustrated in Fig. 2 is a pre-treatment stage. Various pre-treatment stages are described on page 8, lines 1-22 of the specification.

Respectfully submitted,



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